

REMARKS

The claims before the Examiner are claims 34 to 37, 39, and 41 to 44. All remaining pending claims have been canceled. Claim 34 has been revised to strike "rigid" and to contain the limitation of now-canceled claim 50.

Applicants will rely upon the protections afforded by 35 USC 121 regarding any divisional applications that may be filed.

The rejection of claims 34 to 37, 39, 41 to 44, and 50 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner had asserted that the specification did not recite the term "rigid"; to advance prosecution, the term has been stricken from the claim.

The rejection of claims 34 to 37, 39, and 41 to 44 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by GB '777 is believed moot by the incorporation into the independent claim of the features of a claim not so rejected.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the case is in condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

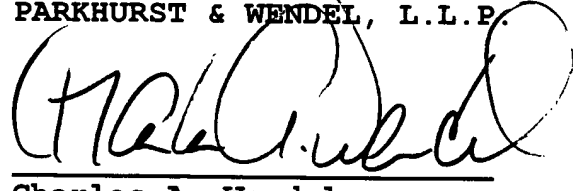
Serial No. 09/382,794

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

  
Date

  
Charles A. Wendel  
Registration No. 24,453

CAW/ch  
Attorney Docket No.: BESI:054

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.  
1421 Prince Street  
Suite 210  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805  
Telephone: (703) 739-0220